



Silver City Ranger District of the Gila National Forest Asks Visitors and Neighbors to Help Keep the Forest Trash Free



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Help Keep Our Forests Green and Clean

The Silver City Ranger District employees recently coordinated a project work day in the Bear Mountain area along Grant County Road 1-51 which is known as the Bear Mountain Road and Forest Service Roads 862 and 858. According to District Ranger, Diane Taliaferro "this area has a history of illegal dumping such as household trash, construction and landscape materials, and occasionally even animal carcasses."



In addition to the illegal dumping, recreational target shooting is very popular along these routes. Unfortunately, enthusiasts leave these areas covered with used shell casings, damaged vegetation and miscellaneous items serving as targets such as glass bottles, jugs, boards, TVs, washers, and dryers. In the past three months, the Forest Service has removed over 1400 pounds of trash. This becomes an eye sore for people who live and work here as well as visitors who come to the Gila National Forest.



Per Forest Service Code of Federal Regulations, 36 Title Part 261, illegal dumping, littering and damaging any natural feature of the United States is punishable as a Class B misdemeanor by a fine of not more than \$5,000.00 for individuals and \$10,000.00 for organizations or by imprisonment for not more than six (6) months, or both. [Title 16 USC 551, Title 18 USC §§ 3559, 3571, and 3581.]

If you witness activities of illegal dumping, trash being left behind or resource damage, please call the Gila National Forest to report this violation at 575-388-8201.

The Silver City Ranger District would like to partner with local communities, landowners and businesses to work together to keep these areas free of litter and trash.

Please help keep our forests green, clean and better for the next forest visitor to enjoy!

